Name:

## Assignment: Strategic Search Strategies

When we research, it helps to keep track of what we are doing, including search terms we use and sources we find. This ongoing tracking system is often called a research log. In module 4, you began a research log by choosing a research question, and creating a Source Plan. Now you are ready to explore keyword combinations and possible sources to answer your research question.

For this assignment, you will develop search techniques to find sources from the library catalog, databases, and the Internet. Your research question and these strategies and tools will help you to complete your annotated bibliography, which was introduced in module 4, and which will be due in module 7.

This assignment is worth 50 points. Refer to the rubric to understand the grading criteria and expectations. This assignment is due in module 5.

For further guidance in completing this assignment, refer to Learning Unit 5.

1. Combine your key terms using AND and OR to create search statements. Create at least three searches, and make one of them with truncation asterisk if appropriate.

*Example: College AND athletes (or) Sports AND Injur\**

* Search 1:
* Search 2:
* Search 3:

1. Using one or more of your search statements, do a search in the Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) library catalog website to search for books.

* How many did you find?

1. When you hear the word “database” what comes to mind?

* Description/Definition:
* Examples:
* Other words?

1. Using the “Databases A to Z” tab on the FSCJ library catalog website, choose two **subject areas** that you could use to search databases on your topic.

* Subject Area 1:
* Subject Area 2:

1. Select one of those subject areas. Choose two databases from the list that you think will be good places to search for articles on your topic:

* Database example 1:
* Database example 2:

1. Using one or more of your search statements, do a search in the databases you listed in question 5 above.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of Database | Number of Results | How many results on the first page are relevant to what you were looking for? |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

1. When would you use a general database?
2. When would you use a subject-specific database?
3. Choose one of the searches you created and put it into Google (<http://www.google.com>) and list the following things:

* The Words You Searched:
* The Number of Results:
* The URL (address) of a website from the first page of results that looks like it might be useful:

For this part of the assignment, you will develop search strategies that you can use to answer your research question. Use the template below to create search terms that you can use in websites and databases.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | What are you interested in researching? | | *(Write your idea here)*  Enter idea | | | |
| **2** | Think of the **specific question** you want to answer. | | *(Write your question here)*  Enter specific question | | | |
| **3** | *From your question above,* ***circle the******keywords*** *to use in your search* | | | | | |
| **4** | *Write* ***each keyword*** *in its own column.* | Enter  keywords | | Enter  keywords | Enter  keywords | Enter  keywords |
| **5** | *Write any* ***synonyms*** *or* ***related terms for each keyword*** *in the appropriate column.* | OR Enter  synonyms | | OR  OR Enter  synonyms | OR Enter  synonyms | OR Enter  synonyms |

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